Vulgar programmes on internet

†2376. SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain vulgar programmes/ programme sites are readily available in this age of internet revolution;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these programmes are casting adverse effect on young boys/girls; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to curb such programmes?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Information Technology has not conducted any study on the social impact of internet.

(c) Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) had taken steps to facilitate restrictions on such web-sites for youth/small children through introduction of "Kids Suite" during April, 1999. The Kids Internet Suite is provided free with VSNL's internet connection and it enables the parents/guardians permit access only to certain sites and block out objectionable sites. National Informatic Centre (NIC) has been providing INTERNET to Government Department/Bodies. The obscene sites can be blocked at the Internet Gateway level NIC on its part has installed appropriate software to block obscene sites to the maximum extent possible. However, it may not be technically feasible to completely block such sites because of their large proliferation internationally.

ESI Hospital at Tirupathi and Nizamabad

2377. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has requested to direct the ESI Corporation to hand over buildings for commissoning ESI Hospitals at Triupathi and Nizamabad in order to provide full fledged medical facilities; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.